

Message Text

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44

ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ADP-00 IOE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

INRE-00 AF-10 ARA-16 EA-11 EUR-25 RSC-01 SS-15 NSC-10

L-03 H-03 PA-03 PRS-01 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 AID-20

EB-11 COME-00 OIC-04 RSR-01 /169 W

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O 231518Z JUL 73

FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 662

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TELAVIV IMMEDIATE

USMISSION USUN NY IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS GENEVA 3821

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ECOSOC

SUBJ: ECOSOC 55-ITEM 9 (C)-WEST ASIA REC

1. QUOTED BELOW IS TEXT OF RELEASE MADE AVAILABLE TO ALL ECOSOC DELS RE USDEL'S ACTION TO DATE ON SUBJECT AGENDA ITEM. TEXT ENTITLED "U.S. OPPOSED MOVE TO CREATE WEST ASIAN ECONOMIC COMMISSION WITHOUT ISRAEL" FOLLOWS:

2. QUOTE. THE UNITED STATES HAS VIGOROUSLY OPPOSED A MOVE BY ARAB STATES LED BY LEBANON TO CREATE A UNITED NATIONS REGIONAL ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR WEST ASIA WHICH WOULD EXCLUDE ISRAEL.

3. U.S. AMBASSADOR C. CLYDE FERGUSON, JR., SAID THE LEBANESE PROPOSAL, "CONTAINING INHERENTLY DISCRIMINATORY PROVISIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP, IS UNCONSTITUTIONAL AND IS PATENTLY ILLEGAL".

4. AMBASSADOR FERGUSON TOLD THE ECONOMIC COMMITTEE OF UNCLASSIFIED

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THE U.N. ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL (ECOSOC) JULY 20

THAT THE LEBANESE DRAFT RESOLUTION "IS UNLIKE ANY PREVIOUS RESOLUTION IN THE HISTORY OF THE U.N. PERTAINING TO THE CREATION OF A REGIONAL COMMISSION," AND VIOLATES A BASIC PRINCIPLE OF THE U.N. CHARTER.

5. THE U.S. REPRESENTATIVE INTRODUCED DRAFT AMENDMENTS TO THE LEBANESE DRAFT WHICH WOULD GIVE AUTOMATIC MEMBERSHIP IN THE PROPOSED COMMISSION TO ISRAEL--AS A U.N. MEMBER LOCATED IN THE GEOGRAPHICAL AREA IN QUESTION--AND THUS BRING IT INTO LINE WITH THE RESOLUTIONS WHICH CREATED THE REGIONAL ECONOMIC COMMISSIONS FOR EUROPE (ECE), ASIA AND THE FAR EAST (ECAFE), LATIN AMERICA (ECLA) AND AFRICA (ECA).

6. IN INTRODUCING THE AMENDMENTS AMBASSADOR FERGUSON STRESSED THAT THE RESTRICTED MEMBERSHIP OF THE PROPOSED COMMISSION (1) WOULD VIOLATE THE U.N. CHARTER, ARTICLE 2 (1), (2) WOULD BE CONTRARY TO ALL PRIOR U.N. PRECEDENTS IN ESTABLISHING U.N. REGIONAL ECONOMIC COMMISSIONS AND (3) WOULD VIOLATE THE CRITERIA ESTABLISHED UNDER ARTICLE 68 OF THE CHARTER THAT THE MEMBERSHIP OF REGIONAL ECONOMIC COMMISSIONS MUST BE REASONABLY RELATED TO THE PURPOSE AND FUNCTION OF THE PARTICULAR COMMISSION.

7. AMBASSADOR EDOUARD GHORRA OF LEBANON CALLED THESE AMENDMENTS UNACCEPTABLE, WHEREUPON AMBASSADOR FERGUSON INTRODUCED A DRAFT RESOLUTION CALLING ON ECOSOC TO SEEK AN ADVISORY OPINION FROM THE INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE AS TO WHETHER ESTABLISHMENT OF THE COMMISSION WITH ITS MEMBERSHIP DETERMINED AS LEBANON SUGGESTED WOULD BE CONSISTENT WITH THE U.N. CHARTER AND WITH U.N. PRACTICE.

8. THE U.S. DRAFT WOULD POSTPONE FURTHER ECOSOC CONSIDERATION OF THE QUESTION UNTIL RECEIPT OF THE REQUESTED OPINION FROM THE HAGUE COURT.END QUOTE.

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